

ACT No. 679

SENATE BILL NO. 800 (Substitute of Senate Bill No. 779 by Senator Lafleur and Michot and Representative Montoucet)

BY SENATOR LAFLEUR AND REPRESENTATIVES ARMES, BOBBY BADON, BALDONE, BARRAS, BARROW, BILLIOT, CHAMPAGNE, CONNICK, CORTEZ, DOERGE, FOIL, GISCLAIR, GUILLORY, GUINN, HAZEL, HONORE, JOHNSON, KLECKLEY, LABRUZZO, LANDRY, LEBAS, LEGER, LORUSSO, MILLS, MONTOUCET, MORRIS, PERRY, ROBIDEAUX, ROY, SIMON, GARY SMITH, JANE SMITH, PATRICIA SMITH, ST. GERMAIN, STIAES, TEMPLET, THIBAUT, THIERRY AND WHITE

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact Chapter 13 of Title 25 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to
3 be comprised of R.S. 25:651 through 655 and R.S. 36:209(R), relative to the Council
4 for the Development of French in Louisiana; to statutorily create the council; to
5 provide relative to the council's domicile, purposes, membership, powers, duties, and
6 functions; to provide relative to members' terms and compensation; to provide
7 relative to vacancies; to provide for the appointment of an executive committee and
8 an executive director; to provide for policies and bylaws; to provide relative to
9 executive reorganization; and to provide for related matters.

10 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

11 Section 1. Chapter 13 of Title 25 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be
12 comprised of R.S. 25:651 through 655, is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

13 CHAPTER 13. COUNCIL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF FRENCH
14 IN LOUISIANA

15 ~~§651. Council authorized; membership; powers~~

16 ~~The governor is hereby authorized to establish the Council for the~~
17 ~~Development of French in Louisiana, said agency to consist of no more than fifty~~
18 ~~members and including a chairman appointed by the governor from names~~
19 ~~recommended to him by legislators. Said council is empowered to do any and all~~
20 ~~things necessary to accomplish the development, utilization and preservation of the~~

1 French language as found in the state of Louisiana for the cultural, economic and
2 tourist benefit of the state.

3 **§651. Creation; domicile; purposes**

4 **A. The Council for the Development of French in Louisiana, hereinafter**
5 **referred to as the "council", is hereby created within the Department of**
6 **Culture, Recreation and Tourism to preserve, promote, and develop Louisiana's**
7 **French and Creole culture, heritage, and language.**

8 **B. The council shall be domiciled in Lafayette, Louisiana.**

9 **C. The purposes of the council shall include the following:**

10 **(1) To oversee the development and expansion of the state's economic**
11 **development and tourism activities designed to promote our French culture,**
12 **heritage, and language.**

13 **(2) To promote, develop, and oversee cultural and educational relations**
14 **and exchanges within the state and between the state of Louisiana and other**
15 **countries, provinces, and states that share Louisiana's historical French**
16 **heritage, culture, and language.**

17 **(3) To promote, support, and enhance French language immersion**
18 **educational programs and instruction at all levels of elementary and secondary**
19 **education in the state by working cooperatively and collaboratively with the**
20 **State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the state Department**
21 **of Education.**

22 **(4) To develop a model French immersion program which can be used**
23 **by any school seeking to establish a French immersion program within its**
24 **curriculum.**

25 **(5) To increase the number of French immersion schools in the state,**
26 **with the specific goal of establishing, not later than September 1, 2015, at least**
27 **one French immersion school in East Baton Rouge Parish and in each of the**
28 **following parishes which comprise the Acadiana Region:**

29 **(a) Acadia**

30 **(b) Ascension**

1 (c) Assumption

2 (d) Avoyelles

3 (e) Calcasieu

4 (f) Cameron

5 (g) Evangeline

6 (h) Iberia

7 (i) Iberville

8 (j) Jefferson Davis

9 (k) Lafayette

10 (l) Lafourche

11 (m) Pointe Coupee

12 (n) St. Charles

13 (o) St. James

14 (p) St. Landry

15 (q) St. Martin

16 (r) St. Mary

17 (s) St. John the Baptist

18 (t) Terrebonne

19 (u) Vermilion

20 (v) West Baton Rouge

21 (6) To develop a certification system whereby vendors, festivals, and
22 restaurants may be designated "Francophone Friendly" and design and issue
23 a marquee that may be displayed by each certified entity.

24 ~~§652. Cooperation with other agencies~~

25 The Council for the Development of French in Louisiana may cooperate with
26 and advise other state agencies, including public institutions of education.

27 §652. Membership; appointment; terms; vacancies; compensation

28 A. The council shall be composed of twenty-three members as follows:

29 (1) Two members appointed by the governor.

30 (2) Four members appointed by the Louisiana section of the Assemblée

1 des Parlementaires Francophones.

2 (3) Two members appointed by the council's Consortium of Louisiana
3 Colleges and Universities.

4 (4) One member appointed by the Le Centre International de Lafayette.

5 (5) One member appointed by the Louisiana Cultural Economy
6 Foundation.

7 (6) The mayor of New Orleans, or his designee.

8 (7) One member appointed by the French-American Chamber of
9 Commerce, Louisiana Chapter.

10 (8) One member appointed by the Louisiana Educational Television
11 Authority.

12 (9) One member appointed by La Fondation Louisiane.

13 (10) Four members appointed by the Louisiana Consortium of
14 Immersion Schools.

15 (11) Two members appointed by the American Association of Teachers
16 of French, Louisiana Chapter.

17 (12) One member appointed by the United Houma Nation.

18 (13) One member appointed by the Association Louisiane-Acadie.

19 (14) One member appointed by the Louisiana State Bar Association,
20 Francophone Section.

21 B. All members shall be confirmed by the Senate.

22 C. Members shall serve four-year terms, concurrent with that of the
23 governor.

24 D. Vacancies shall be filled in the manner of original appointment and
25 each member shall serve until his successor is appointed and takes office.

26 E. Members of the council shall serve without compensation.

27 §653. Duties, powers, and functions

28 A. The council shall serve as the official state agency in all relations and
29 exchanges between the state of Louisiana and other countries, provinces, and
30 states enjoying membership or observer status in the Organisation

1 Internationale de la Francophonie and similar organizations.

2 B. A majority of the council shall constitute a quorum for the
3 transaction of official business. All official actions of the council shall require
4 the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present and voting.

5 C. The council shall elect a chairman, who shall be fluent in the French
6 language, and may elect such other officers as deemed necessary to effectively
7 conduct the council's business. Officers shall serve two-year terms.

8 D. The council shall:

9 (1) Meet at least once a year, or at the call of the chairman, and at such
10 other times deemed necessary by the chairman or the executive committee.

11 (2)(a) Create an executive committee consisting of seven members of the
12 council, including the chairman of the council and six other council members
13 as the council may determine. All members of the executive committee shall be
14 fluent in the French language.

15 (b) A majority of the members of the executive committee shall
16 constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. However, when the council
17 has delegated to the committee full power to act with respect to a matter,
18 affirmative action by a majority of the entire committee membership shall be
19 required.

20 (3)(a) Appoint an executive director, who shall be fluent in French, and
21 who shall perform such duties and possess such qualifications as established by
22 the council.

23 (b) The executive director shall be in the unclassified service of the state
24 and his compensation shall be determined by the council.

25 (4) Adopt bylaws and establish policies to govern the operations of the
26 council and the executive committee.

27 E. The council may:

28 (1) Cooperate with and advise other state agencies, including public
29 institutions of education.

30 (2) Establish such committees as it deems necessary to efficiently

1 conduct the council's business.

2 §653 654. Donations and grants

3 The Council for the Development of French in Louisiana may ~~receive~~ accept
4 donations and grants from individuals, corporations and governments any source,
5 public and private, in order to further the provisions of this section accomplish the
6 purposes of the council.

7 §655. Annual Report

8 The council shall submit an annual report to the governor, the president
9 of the Senate, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the chairman of the
10 Senate Committee on Education, and the chairman of the House Committee on
11 Education, not later than March first, regarding all actions taken and progress
12 made toward achieving the purposes and duties set forth for the council in this
13 Chapter.

14 Section 2. R.S. 36:209(R) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

15 §209. Transfer of boards, commissions, departments, and agencies to Department
16 of Culture, Recreation and Tourism

17 * * *

18 R. The Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (~~R.S. 25:651-~~
19 ~~653~~ R.S. 25:651 et seq.) is placed within the Department of Culture, Recreation and
20 Tourism and shall exercise and perform its powers, duties, functions, and
21 responsibilities in the manner provided for agencies transferred in accordance with
22 the provisions of R.S. 36:801.1.

23 * * *

24 Section 3. The terms of the members of the Council for the Development of French
25 in Louisiana in office on the effective date of this Act shall terminate on December 31, 2010.

26 Section 4. The initial terms of the members of the Council for the Development of
27 French in Louisiana appointed pursuant to the provisions of this Act shall commence on
28 January 1, 2011.

29 Section 5. The Council for the Development of French in Louisiana shall establish
30 an advisory committee composed of the members of the council in office prior to the

1 effective date of this Act to provide advice and counsel to the new members and the
2 executive committee.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____